

# **Barren Co. ATC Students Participate in “CASA” Project to Help Others**

**Joint venture not only benefits students but underprivileged children as well**

Students from the Barren Co. Area Technology Center (ATC) and local high school recently came together in a multi-purposed adventure that benefited underprivileged children in the region.

“It started with a phone call from Candy Browning, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) director for Barren Co.,” said Kent Hood, carpentry instructor at the ATC. “Ms. Browning wanted to know if we could get involved with a fundraising program by building a child’s playhouse. We agreed to participate in the project because it utilized all aspects of house construction and fit nicely into our curriculum.”

Carpentry, electrical technology and computer aided drafting students at the ATC teamed up with art students from the Barren Co. HS to create a



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**Kent Hood  
Carpentry Instructor  
Barren Co. ATC**





Pictured, above: Carpentry Instructor Kent Hood explains roof styles and rafter layout to the high school geometry class. Below: Joey Alexander, left and Stuart Pursley work on the playhouse.



two story playhouse that was raffled to benefit the CASA Program.

CASA is a non-profit organization that helps neglected and abused children who have been through the juvenile justice system by way of appointed volunteers.

Students in the various ATC classes collaborated to design and construct the playhouse, while those in the high school art classes painted a mural for the interior.

"I think it was an excellent project. It was good for my students to volunteer their time for a very worthy cause," said Carl Owens, computer aided drafting instructor at the ATC. Mr. Owens' class helped in the design of the floor plan.

"Not only did the endeavor serve as a worthwhile community project, it provided valuable hands-on experiences for participants at both the technical and academic levels," said Electricity Instructor Greg Felkins.

Lori Weaver's high school honors geometry class visited Mr. Hood's carpentry class to participate and relate their geometry lessons to the building of the playhouse.



“We worked with the geometry class to determine rafter length and layout. We also estimated the rise of the playhouse to make sure it would fit out of our door,” said Mr. Hood. “This is one of the most beneficial projects in which we have participated.” “The CASA playhouse project provided a great opportunity for the technology center and high school students to work together,” said Barren Co. ATC Principal Hal Toms. “Not only was it done for a good cause, it allowed us to meet many of our Tech Prep objectives.”

Once completed, the playhouse was displayed throughout the community and even served as the CASA float in the local Christmas parade. Raffle tickets were sold at various local businesses and a lucky winner was drawn from the raffle on Christmas Eve. Approximately \$4,000 was generated for the CASA organization.

Pictured at far right is the mural (used as the centerpiece for the playhouse theme) painted by high school art students. It has also been used as the background template for this story. The adjacent picture shows some of the carpentry craftsmanship done inside the playhouse.

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Editor's Note: In the Spanish language, "CASA" means house. How appropriate!